

June 20, 2016

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

We, the undersigned 204 national, state and local organizations, write to urge you to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people by supporting Senator Christopher Murphy's amendment, S.Amdt. 4750, to the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill (S.2837) and rejecting an alternative proposal offered by Senator Charles Grassley that would roll back current federal law and allow those adjudicated mentally ill to buy guns.

Senator Murphy's amendment is based on a bill recently introduced by Senator Charles Schumer (S.2934) to expand Brady background checks to all gun sales. We strongly support this amendment, which is also sponsored by Senators Schumer and Cory Booker. If enacted, this measure will dramatically reduce America's current public health epidemic of gun violence that claims the lives of 91 people, and injures more than 200 people, each and every day. In the wake of the biggest mass shooting in U.S. history – an act of hate and domestic terrorism perpetrated against our brothers and sisters in Orlando just last week – we have had **ENOUGH**. It is far past time that Congress act to **DISARM HATE** by passing this proposal.

The amendment expands Brady background checks to all gun sales including sales initiated online and at gun shows, and it will help to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous and prohibited people like felons, fugitives and domestic abusers. The amendment will also improve reporting of prohibited purchasers to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), by requiring federal agencies to certify that they have provided appropriate records to NICS. Finally, it increases responsibility for individual gun owners to report their lost or stolen firearm(s) to law enforcement within 48 hours to assure that law enforcement is able to deter, detect and apprehend gun traffickers.

Most recently, based on research released by Harvard University in 2015, we know that as many as 40 percent of guns sold today in the U.S. are sold by unlicensed sellers, including at gun shows and online where Brady background checks are not required by federal law. For example, Armslist.com hosts upwards of 70,000 gun advertisements at any given time and many of the guns can be purchased without a background check. We know that Brady Background checks keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people like felons, domestic abusers, and those adjudicated mentally ill. According to FBI data, the Brady Law has blocked more than 2.6 million gun sales to prohibited people since it went into effect in 1994. We also know that Brady background checks for unlicensed sales save lives. According to Everytown for Gun Safety research, in states with expanded background checks, 48 percent fewer law enforcement officers are killed with handguns; 46 percent fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners; and there are 48 percent fewer gun suicides. Finally, we know that more than 90 percent of the American people overwhelmingly support expanding Brady background checks to all gun sales.

Therefore, we the undersigned organizations strongly support its passage by Congress as a top priority to dramatically reduce America's current public health epidemic of gun injuries and deaths.

We also strongly oppose S.Amdt. 4751 to the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill (S.2837) filed by Senator Grassley. Senator Grassley's amendment would repeal longstanding law and make it legal for previously prohibited people to buy guns. Specifically, this proposal would allow people who have been involuntarily committed due to severe mental illness to buy a gun immediately after leaving a psychiatric hospital and enable veterans who suffer from severe mental illness, and who are at risk of suicide, to legally buy guns. Furthermore, it would invalidate hundreds of thousands of mental health records already in the NICS background check system.

Senator Murphy's amendment would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people by requiring criminal background checks on all gun sales. Meanwhile, Senator Grassley's proposal leaves the background check loophole wide open, and actually makes it easier for previously prohibited and adjudicated mentally ill to buy guns. We support Murphy's amendment and oppose Grassley's and urge all Members of Congress to vote accordingly.

Sincerely,

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence united with Million Mom March (MMM)
Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Physicians
American Federation of Teachers
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
American Medical Women's Association
American Psychological Association
American State Legislators for Gun Violence Prevention Steering Committee
Arizonans for Gun Safety
Art= Ammo Artists Against Gun Violence
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)
BattleBorn Nevada
Brave New Films
Bridgeport, CT Child Advocacy Coalition
Campaign To Unload
Ceasefire Oregon
CeaseFire Pennsylvania
Center for American Progress
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition Against Gun Violence
CODEPINK Women for Peace
Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU Healthcare
Connecticut Against Gun Violence
Colorado Ceasefire Legislative Action
David Clark, Chair of the ABA's Standing Committee on Gun Violence
Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence
Doctors Council SEIU

Doctors for America
End the Madness
Every Child Matters
Everytown for Gun Safety
Faith United Against Gun Violence
Fairfax County (VA) Citizens Against Gun Violence
Fuse Washington
Generation Lockdown
Generation Progress Action
Georgians for Gun Safety
Goods Not Guns
Grandparents Against Gun Violence (MO)
Greenwich (CT) Council Against Gun Violence
Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership Political Action Committee (Oregon)
Gun Sense South Carolina
Gun Sense Vermont
Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah
Hawaii Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence
Hawaii Public Health Association
Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence
Illinois Council against Handgun Violence
Iowans for Gun Safety
Joint Action Committee (JAC)
Maine Gun Safety Coalition
MALDEF: The Latino Legal Voice for Civil Rights in America
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence
Mi Familia Vota
Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence
Minority Health Institute
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
MomsRising.org
MoveOn.org
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Cathedral Gun Violence Prevention Group
National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
National Medical Council on Gun Violence
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Physicians Alliance
Nebraskans Against Gun Violence
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Newtown Action Alliance
New Mexicans To Prevent Gun Violence
New Yorkers Against Gun Violence
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence
Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence
OK GunSense

One Wisconsin Now
Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety
Parents Against Gun Crime
People For the American Way
Physicians for Prevention of Gun Violence
Progress Florida
ProgressNow
Progress Now Colorado
Protect Minnesota
Protest Easy Guns
Rabbis Against Gun Violence
Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence
Safe Tennessee Project
Sandy Hook Promise
States United to Prevent Gun Violence
Stop Handgun Violence (MA)
Texas Gun Sense
The Campaign to Keep Guns off Campus
The Courage Campaign (CA)
The Koop Institute
The Northwest Corner Committee for Gun Violence Prevention (Salisbury, Ct.)
The United States Conference of Mayors
The Virginia GVP Coalition
The Virginia Center for Public Safety
20 Children
UltraViolet
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (VA)
Union for Reform Judaism
United Physicians of Newtown
Violence Policy Center
Voices for Progress
Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility
Washington Ceasefire
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort (WAVE) Educational Fund
Women Against Gun Violence (California)
Women's Law Project
Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice, St. Louis, MO

Brady and MMM Chapters

Central Arkansas Brady Chapter
Greater Phoenix, AZ MMM Chapter
Antelope Valley, CA Brady Chapter
Contra Costa County, CA Brady Chapter
Long Beach, CA Brady Chapter
Los Angeles Brady Chapter
Marin County, CA Brady Chapter
Napa County, CA Brady Chapter

Nevada-Placer, CA Brady Chapter
Oakland/Alameda County, CA Brady Chapter
Orange County, CA Brady Chapter
Pomona Valley, CA Brady Chapter
Riverside County, CA Brady Chapter
Sacramento Valley, CA Brady Chapter
San Diego, CA Brady Chapter
San Fernando Valley, CA Brady Chapter
San Francisco, CA Brady Chapter
San Joaquin Valley, CA Brady Chapter
San Luis Obispo, CA Brady Chapter
San Mateo County, CA Brady Chapter
Santa Barbara, CA Brady Chapter
Santa Clara County, CA Brady Chapter
Santa Cruz County, CA Brady Chapter
Solano County, CA Brady Chapter
Sonoma County, CA Brady Chapter
South Bay Los Angeles, CA Brady Chapter
Tri-City Alameda County, CA Brady Chapter
Ventura County, CA Brady Chapter
Yolo County, CA Brady Chapter
Denver, CO Brady Chapter
Eastern Connecticut Brady Chapter
Greater Danbury, CT Brady Chapter
Southwestern Connecticut Brady Chapter
Warren, CT Brady Chapter
District of Columbia Brady Chapter
Delaware MMM Chapter
Central Florida Brady Chapter
Sarasota County, Florida Brady Chapter
Metro Atlanta, GA MMM Chapter
Savannah, Georgia Brady Chapter
Hawaii Brady Chapter
Greater Chicagoland Brady Chapter
Western Illinois Brady Chapter
Latah County, Idaho Brady Chapter
Northeast Kansas Brady Chapter
Lexington and Central Kentucky MMM Chapter
New Orleans, LA Brady Chapter
Massachusetts Brady Chapter
Brady Boston, MA Chapter
Montgomery County, MD Brady Chapter
Michigan MMM Chapter
Northland Minnesota MMM Chapter
Brady Twin Cities, MN Chapter
Metro St. Louis, MO Brady Chapter
St. Charles, MO Brady Chapter
Eastern North Carolina Brady Chapter

Brady Triangle Area Chapter, North Carolina
Brady Bergen County, New Jersey Chapter
Essex County, New Jersey MMM Chapter
Mercer County, New Jersey MMM Chapter
Brady/MMM Middlesex County New Jersey Chapter
Monmouth/Ocean County, New Jersey MMM Chapter
Warren New Jersey MMM Chapter
Sussex County, NJ MMM Chapter
North Central New Mexico Brady
Southern Nevada Brady Chapter
Northern Westchester County, NY MMM Chapter
Northern Westchester County, NY MMM Chapter
Greater Rochester, NY Brady/MMM Chapter
New York City, NY Brady Chapter
Brady Dayton, Ohio Chapter
Central Ohio Brady/MMM Chapter
Central Oklahoma Brady Chapter
Lane County (Eugene, Oregon) MMM Chapter
Portland, Oregon MMM Chapter
Brady/MMM Greater Pittsburgh Area, PA Chapter
Brady South Central PA Chapter
Rhode Island Brady Chapter
Georgetown County, SC Brady
Grand Strand, SC Brady Chapter
Charleston, SC Brady Chapter
Brady Barnwell County, SC Chapter
Central Texas Brady Chapter
North Texas Brady Chapter
Hampton Roads, VA MMM Chapter
Richmond, VA MMM Chapter
Northern Virginia MMM Chapter
Seattle, WA Brady Chapter
Clark County (Vancouver), WA MMM Chapter
Brady Monongalia County, WV Chapter